

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/881,870

Examiner

Andrew C. Lee

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-6; 11-18 ; renumbered 1-2; 3-10, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/11/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 5 – 6, 11 – 18 are allowable over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of the record fails to disclose the limitations " inserting a j-th in-band control signal into the cell header of each one of the cells for the switching control over the switching fabric of said j-th node on the route, wherein said j-th in-band control signal is derived from the routes tag in the cell header of each one of the cells using said j-th packet-forwarding table, and forwarding each one of the cells, to the input port of the switching fabric coupled to the active input module of said j-th node, at the switching fabric of the j-th node on the route,  $2 < j < (k-1)$ , routing each one of the cells through the switching fabric of said j-th node, using the j-th in-band control signal in the cell header of each one of the cells, to the output port of the switching fabric coupled to the active output module of said j-th node, and consuming said j-th in-band control signal from the cell header of said each one of the cells, at the active output module of the j-th node on the route,  $1 < j < k$ , transmitting each one of the cells to the (j+1)-th node on the route, at the active input module of the egress node, receiving each one of the cells from the (k-1)-th node on the route, and forwarding each one of the cells -to the input port of the switching fabric coupled to the active input module of the egress node, at the switching fabric of the egress node, routing each one of the cells through the switching fabric of said j-th node, using the last in-band control signal in the cell header of each one of the cells, to the output port of the switching fabric coupled to the active

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output module of the egress node, and consuming said last in-band control signal from the cell header of said each one of the cells, and at the active output module of the egress node, reassembling the cells into the packet." to effect the evaluating in combination of other limitations recited in claims 5, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew C. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571) 272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ACL

Sep 05, 2005

  
**Ajit Patel**  
**Primary Examiner**